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Chapter 12 ❖ The Tale of the Lovers' Suicide Ballad (Part 4)

YATSUHA WAS DEAD.

TSUBAKI FOUND OUT THERE WAS A THIRD PARTY INVOLVED IN THE BIZARRE MURDER OF MAN AND WOMAN.

THE WORD ON THE STREET SAID THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS LOVERS' SUICIDE.

BUT SUGGESTED THAT YATSU-HA HAD A HAND IN IT.

SHE DIDN'T TELL ME THAT DIRECTLY, LIKE USUAL,

I DIDN'T KNOW THE GIRL HE WAS WITH, BUT...

"HE FAKED LOVERS' SUICIDE" WAS WHAT I THOUGHT.

WAS IT BECAUSE I'D HEARD THOSE WORDS BEFORE?

THE TWO OF THEM LAYING THERE LOOKED SOMEWHAT COLD AND DISTANT.

YATSUHA'S CAUSE OF DEATH WAS LOVERS' SUICIDE.

THAT THE DEAD LOOKED LIKE THAT, WASN'T IT?

NO, IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS ALIVE

I KNOW.

HUH?

TSU-BAKI!

YATSU-HA IS

I SAID

I KNOW.

THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS LOVERS' SUICIDE, RIGHT?

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UUUH.

N-NO, YOU DON'T.

HIS FATHER KEPT SILENT ABOUT IT, ALONG WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

ONLY HIS FAMILY KNOWS THAT—

TSUBAKI IS A REALLY RUDE WOMAN.

UGH.

YOU'RE MEDDLESOME, FOR A COWARD. SOONER OR LATER, YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE.

YOU PROBABLY LOOKED FOR YATSUHA TO SEE IT FOR YOURSELF.

FIRST OF ALL, THIS DOESN'T EVEN CONCERN YOU, RIGHT?

SHE KNEW.

!

THE TEA, SENSEI.

WHY DO I HAVE TO POUR TEA AND WHAT NOT WHILE FACING HER PRATTLING ASS!!?

RRR GH!!

CUT THAT OUT AND FACE ME, YOU JERK!

OH??

LOOK.

LOOK OVER THERE.

OH.

GLARE

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CRAWLING DEEP INTO A PILE OF BOOKS FOR ONE I DON'T LIKE IS A PAIN.

FOUND IT!

HUH?

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UH, FUKUJU-SAN, WAS IT?

NICE TO MEET YOU.

DON'T READ A BOOK YOU DON'T LIKE RIGHT NOW!

HM.

WHAT'S YOUR RELATION TO YAT-SUHA?

Y-YES!

HOU SEN.

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I GUESS SHE DIDN'T LIKE WHAT SHE HEARD.

OH, MY NAME IS HOUSEN.

WE USED TO GO TO THE SAME CRAM SCHOOL—

THAT'S MY JOB.

CAN YOU REALLY FIND ANYTHING?

...CAN YOU FIND ...

THE SMALL FLOWER POUCH?

ULP!

YATSUHA COMMITTED LOVERS' SUICI—

BUT HUH?

IT WAS YOURS?

THE POUCH THAT SHAGGY-HAIR HAD!

SHE'S A SURPRISINGLY STRONG-WILLED WOMAN

GLARE

SHE'S BLATANTLY SCOWLING AT A MAN.

THIS LOVELY WOMAN IS STILL YOUNG.

WHERE DOES SHE GET SUCH STRENGTH?

...YATSUHA-SAN WAS RESTLESS WHENEVER HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY SWEETS,

SO I...HAD SWEETS IN MY POUCH—

HUH? YOU ALWAYS HAVE THEM ON YOU?

ARE YOU MISSING ANY-THING ELSE?

HIS FINGERS |

ARE YOU SAYING THE OFFICIALS GAVE THEM TO THE FISH? WOULDN'T THAT BE CONSIDERABLY CRUEL?

CLIPPING YOUR NAILS AND CUTTING OFF YOUR FINGERS IS A STAPLE OF LOVERS' SUICIDE.

WHEN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FIND THE CUT-OFF FINGERS...THEY THROW THEM FAR AWAY...

I WON'T HAND IT OVER TO ANYONE.

EVEN ONE PIECE OF HIS HAIR,

FIND

IF I

SO, WHAT ABOUT THE WOMAN'S SCARS?

HOW DEEP WERE HIS WOUNDS?

WAS IT POSSIBLE TO COMMIT THE DEED WITH ONE HAND?

OR THAT HE GAVE THEM TO THE DEAD WOMAN?

THERE'S DEFINITELY NO TRACE OF YATSUHA'S CUT-OFF FINGERS, RIGHT?

THE PRO-CEDURE FOR THIS LOVERS' SUICIDE MESSED UP, TOO?

WAS

A FAKE LOVERS' SUICIDE—

IF THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS MISSING,

THEN WASN'T HE UNABLE TO ACCOMPLISH IT?

I THOUGHT IT WAS UNFLAT-TERING.

IT WAS FAKE ?

HUH?

WAAH!

THE SPACE BETWEEN HER EYEBROWS WAS UNFLATTERING. IT'D BEEN HOLDING BACK

YATSUHASA...!

LARGE DROPS OF TEARS.

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SHE BIT HER LIPS.

I'LL TAKE THE JOB.

REFUSING TO ACCEPT HIS DEATH, HIS TRAITOROUS LOVERS' SUICIDE, EVERYTHING.

SAID I'LL TAKE THE JOB.

TSUBAKI SAID IT WAS SO SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO LOOK AT THE TEARS WHICH DIDN'T SEEM TO STOP EASILY.

IT SEEMS THERE ARE THINGS EVEN ECCENTRICS DON'T LIKE.

HEH ...

ARE YOU OKAY WITH MAKING SUCH A RASH DE-CISION?

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HOW'RE YOU GONNA FIND SOME-THING THAT SMALL

COME ON, DON'T JUST READ THAT BOOK.

THAT POUCH WAS FILLED WITH FUKUJU'S FEELINGS.

!?

IS ANOTHER ONE OF KAGARI'S PERSO-NAS!

THE SHRINE MAIDEN OF THE YOSHI-WARA

OH YEAH! BACK ON TOPIC,

IF WE GO SEE KAGARI—

YIKES!

SO CLOSE!

BUT ...

WE CAN'T, WE CAN'T!!

SHE CAN'T FIND OUT ABOUT THIS, SENSEI!

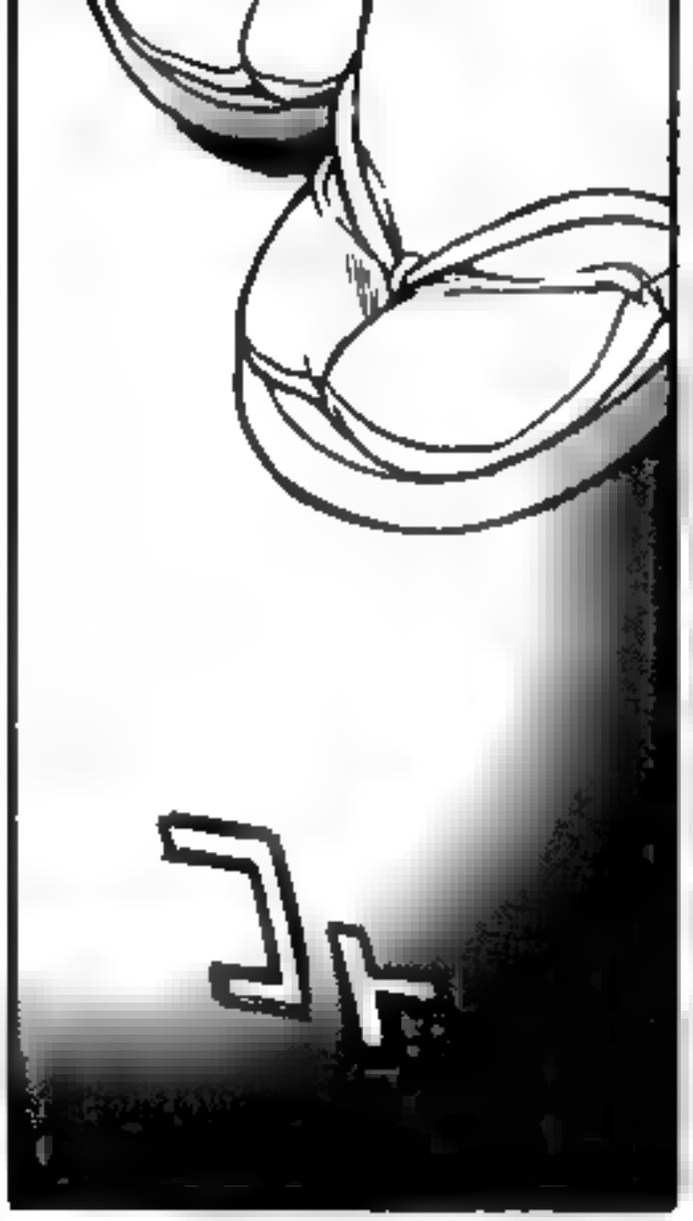
WE CAN'T

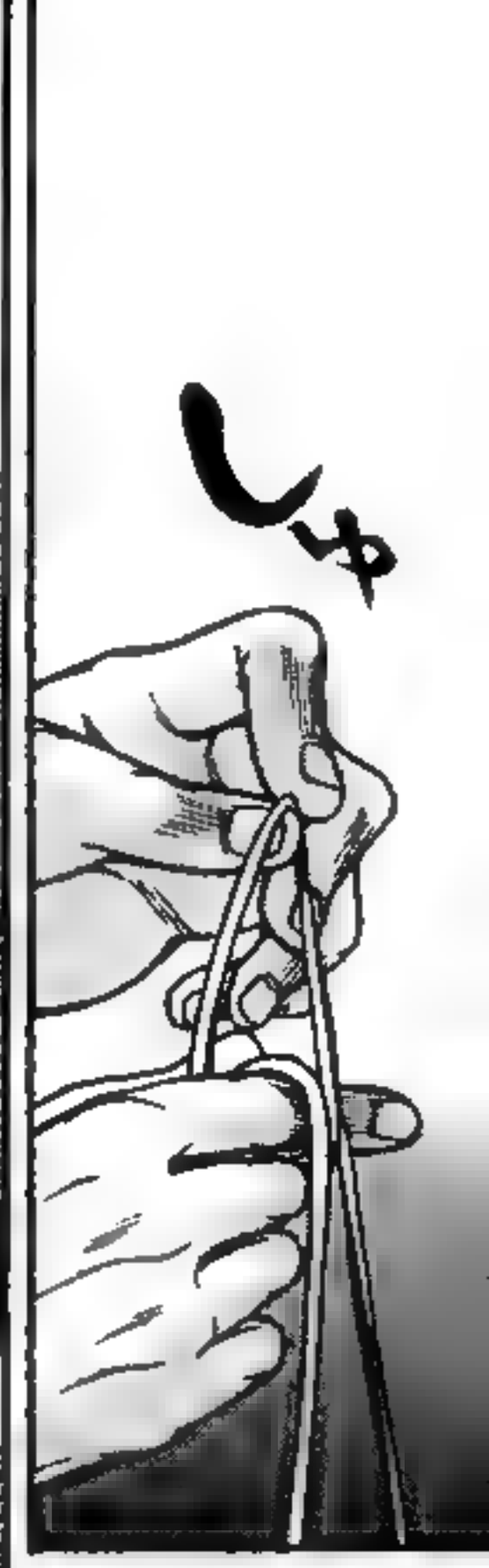
WE'RE NOT GOING TO SEE KAGARI !!

YOU'RE SO STUBBORN, SENSEI!!

Newspaper Summary
The Love Suicides at Sonezaki

BUT...





WHO IS IT?

OH...
YOU MUST BE FUKUJU...

I'M SORRY, HIOU-SAN.
I CAME HERE FOR YATSUHA-SAN...

WH ...Y?

WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT POUCH?

I'LL LOOK FOR THE POUCH.

I COULDN'T FIND IT, NO MATTER WHERE I—

THAT'S YATSUHA-SAN'S.

JUST ONE THING.

HOWEVER, YOU HAVE TO PROM-ISE ME

COME INTO CONTACT

YOU MUST NEVER

WITH WHOEVER HAS THE POUCH.

WHY

INDEED, YATSUHA ALWAYS HAD THIS ON HIM.

THIS IS A PART OF HIM.

I

I...

HAVE THAT POUCH?

DOES HE

YOU WANT TO SEE YATSUHA, YES?

THEN HERE.

HERE HE IS.

IT'S BECAUSE HE'S THE ONE WHO CUT OFF YATSUHA'S FINGERS.

NOW THEN,

COME AND JOIN HIM, FUKUJU.

.....

I WAS TOLD NOT TO GO,

BUT I WANT TO...

Agrypnia Scans